

# De-mystifying Open Source

Luc Castermans

SPIDER

Eindhoven, 11 december 2013



The Dutch Software Process  
Improvement Network

# Who am I?

Ir. (MSc) Electronic Engineering

+10 years HW/IC development

+10 years SW development

+10 years Quality (CMM,..)

+10 years Project management

Today:

Group leader development

LED power electronics,

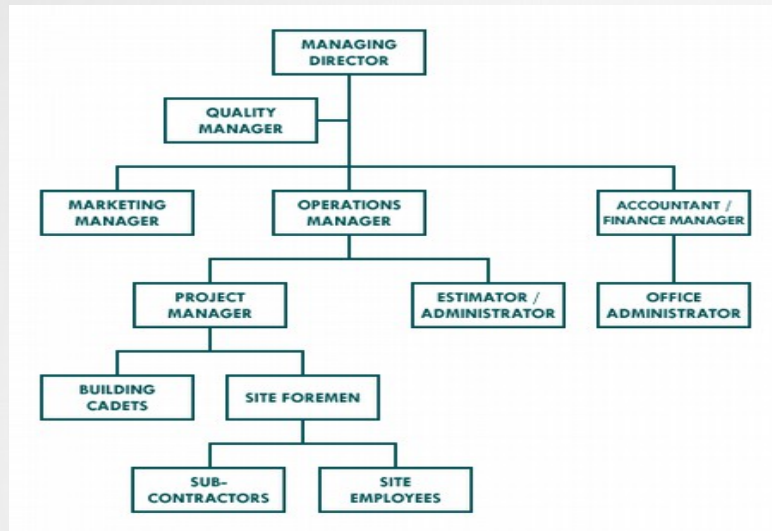
Philips Lighting

# Free-, Shareware, Open Source,..

“It looks like a duck, it walks like a duck, it is not a duck”

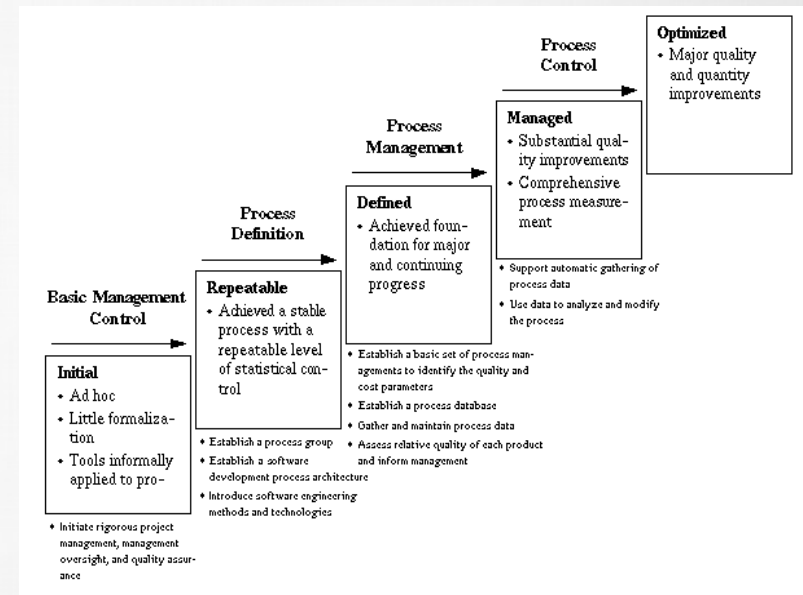


# Closed Source, The Cathedral



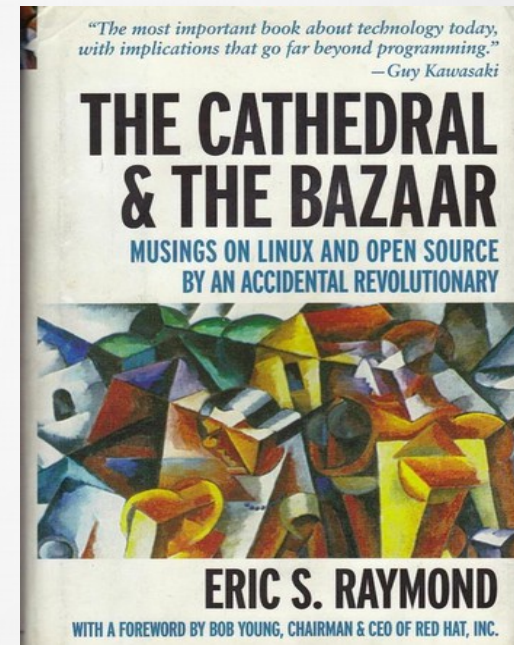
**Project manager**  
**Programmer, designer,..**  
**Team leader**

.....**Quality Assurance Office, QPL**  
.... **Product Manager**  
.... **CEO**





# Open source, The Bazaar

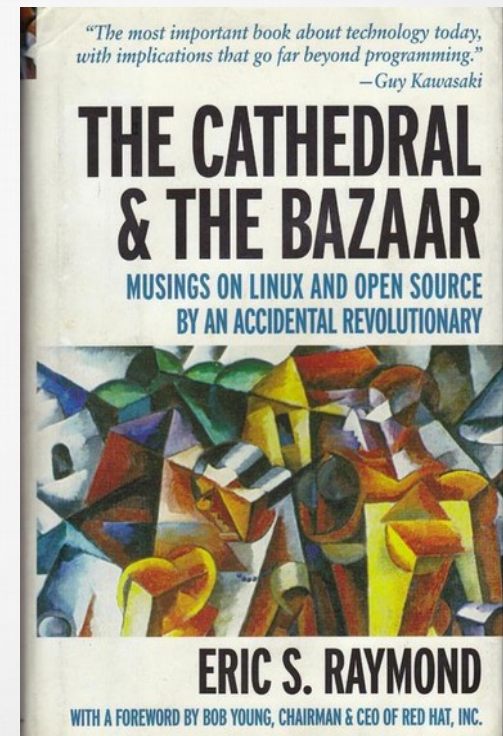


# The Cathedral & The Bazaar

Process documented by developing  
**'fetchmail'** similar to Linux kernel

TC&TB:

- 19 lessons
- 25 pages



# TC&TB Lesson 1

**Every good work of software  
starts by scratching a developer's  
personal itch.**

## TC&TB Lesson 2

**Good programmers know what to write. Great ones know what to rewrite (and reuse).**



## TC&TB Lesson 6

**Treating your users as  
co-developers is your  
least-hassle route to rapid code  
improvement and effective  
debugging.**

## TC&TB Lesson 7

**Release early.  
Release often.  
And listen to your customers.**

## TC&TB Lesson 8

**Given a large enough beta-tester  
and co-developer base,  
almost every problem will be  
characterized quickly and the fix  
obvious to someone.**

## TC&TB Lesson 10

**If you treat your beta-testers as if they're your most valuable resource, they will respond by becoming your most valuable resource.**



## TC&TB Lesson 19

**Provided the development coordinator has a communications medium at least as good as the Internet, and knows how to lead without coercion, many heads are inevitably better than one.**

# Open Source is/needs

- **Product**
  - **What the itch is all about**
- **Community**
  - **The coordinator, engineers, people**
- **Process**
  - **All “TC&TB lessons” required**
  - **Can be assessed!**

# Thank you!

# ?!

**SPI**  **ER**

The Dutch Software Process  
Improvement Network